

Application No.: 10/024311

Case No.: 56695US002

Listing of the Claims

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (original) A length of reinforced tape comprising:
 - an elongate visually transparent backing layer of polymeric material having opposite longitudinally extending edges and opposite first and second major surfaces;
 - a reinforcing scrim along the second major surface of said backing layer, said reinforcing scrim being formed of fibers; and
 - a layer of visually transparent adhesive along said second major surface of said backing layer and covering said reinforcing scrim with only portions of said reinforcing scrim being wetted by the adhesive so that the reinforcing scrim is visible along the backing layer;said polymeric fibers and said transparent adhesive having similar indexes of refraction so that upon applying force to the backing to press the layer of adhesive against a substrate the layer of adhesive will wet the fibers, causing the reinforcing scrim to become significantly less visible than before the reinforced tape was adhered to the substrate.
2. (original) A length of reinforced tape according to claim 1 wherein said reinforcing scrim is formed of bundles of said fibers extending longitudinally along said backing layer and being uniformly transversely spaced between the longitudinal edges of said backing layer, and bundles of said fibers extending transverse of said backing layer and being uniformly spaced longitudinally along said backing layer.
3. (original) A length of reinforced tape according to claim 2 where the total of the individual deniers of the fibers in said bundles of fibers is less than about 300.
4. (original) A length of reinforced tape according to claim 2 wherein the fibers are loosely laid in said bundles of fibers.

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5. (original) A length of reinforced tape according to claim 2 wherein said reinforced tape can be torn by hand both longitudinally along said backing layer and transverse of said backing layer.
6. (original) A length of reinforced tape according to claim 1 where the index of refraction of the material of the fibers is within plus or minus 0.2 of the index of refraction of the adhesive.
7. (original) A length of reinforced tape according to claim 1 where the material of the fibers is selected from the materials consisting of fiberglass, acetate, acrylic, modacrylics, rayon, cotton, polyethylene, polypropylene, nylon, polyester, polyamine, and Kevlar.
8. (original) A length of reinforced tape according to claim 1 wherein some of said fibers in said reinforcing scrim extend longitudinally along said backing layer and are uniformly transversely spaced between the longitudinal edges of said backing layer, and some of said fibers in said reinforcing scrim extend transverse of said backing and are uniformly spaced longitudinally along said backing layer.
9. (original) A length of reinforced tape according to claim 8 wherein said fibers in said reinforcing scrim extending longitudinally along said backing layer and said fibers in said reinforcing scrim extending transverse of said backing are fused together where they cross each other.
10. (original) A length of reinforced tape according to claim 1 wherein said reinforcing scrim is a non-woven layer of said fibers.
11. (original) A length of reinforced tape according to claim 1 wherein, when tested in accordance with the test described in this application, the percentage of light reflected from the tape as diffuse light was at least 15 % before the tape was adhered to a substrate, and was reduced by at least 10% by adhering the tape to a substrate.

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12. (original) A length of reinforced tape according to claim 1 wherein, when tested in accordance with the test described in this application, the percentage of light reflected from the tape as diffuse light was at least 15 % before the tape was adhered to a substrate, and was reduced by at least 60% by adhering the tape to a substrate.